

## **MOUNT VERNON**

7 miles south of Alexandria on George Washington Memorial Parkway

George Washington's home stands as an icon of American architecture, history, and preservation. Washington inherited a small frame house and by 1787 had enlarged it to its present form with its elegant piazza overlooking the Potomac. The property remained in family hands after his death, but the house was near collapse by 1858 when Ann Pamela Cunningham organized the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association to purchase it. This was one of the first instances of an organized preservation effort in the country. Over the years the Association has restored and furnished the house with Washington pieces, relandscaped the extensive grounds, and rebuilt dependencies. Open to the public, Mount Vernon provides an authentic portrait of the personality and interests of the man who so well deserves the title "Father of His Country."